



# B30 Foodbank Newsletter

October  
2018

## "Absolutely Incredible" landmark for B30 Foodbank

### Five Years of Donations worth £440,000



**Roger Collins:** an "absolutely incredible" landmark but "gaping chasms in the welfare state".

B30 Foodbank has just reached the "absolutely incredible" landmark of providing those in need with a quarter of a million kilograms of food since the centre opened five years ago. That volume of donated food represents around one million meals at an estimated value of £440,000.

Foodbank founder Roger Collins praised the support given to the most vulnerable in society by the people of South Birmingham and beyond. "I think it's absolutely incredible that we've reached this landmark if you bear in mind all that food has been given voluntarily. People's commitment to dealing with those in these terrible situations is fantastic."

In September 2013, the foodbank came into operation with 3000 Kg of stock. In the first year, about 2600 people were provided with a three-day supply of emergency food. "When we first started out, we had no idea how it was going to go," Roger explained.

Demand has consistently increased, and in the last 12 months, 8500 people received support. Now, the foodbank sometimes provides 1500 Kg of food in a single week.

This latest landmark is also tinged with sadness. "Demand is going up, and I just see no end to it to be honest," Roger said. "It is very depressing bearing in mind the foodbank shouldn't be there in the first place. There are gaping chasms in the welfare state. It is not supporting those in real need."

Roger said that demand for emergency food has increased by 12% since last year and that, as universal credit starts to have an impact on South Birmingham, there could be even greater need in the future.

### Service: "Destitution by Design"

The annual foodbank dedication service takes place on Sunday October the 7<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at The Cotteridge Church. The theme of the service is "destitution by design". People of all religions and none are very welcome.

On a similar theme, the government's planning an investigation into whether its own policies are to blame for the sharp rise in the use of food banks. And B30 Foodbank has been approached by the DWP as a potential contributor to the research.

### CoCoMad Festival Delivers Again

Bournville Labour Party raised another £500 for the foodbank with its latest tombola stall at this year's CoCoMad festival. And once again, the sum was matched



by the Co-Op. Their bumper 636Kg shop is much needed: since January, the foodbank has taken in 45.7 metric tons of food but given out 55.9 tons.

## B30 Foodbank Statistics: October 2017 – September 2018

Total No of adults fed in the last 12 months

**5168**

Total No of children fed in the last 12 months

**3395**

Total No of people fed in the last 12 months

**8563**

Total amount of Kgs of food donated in the last 12 months

**73615**

Total amount of Kgs of food given out in the last 12 months

**75186**

Total number of voucher holder agencies who refer clients

**220**

## SUMMER FUN & A TV APPEARANCE!



*Crafty fun in the holidays*

Holiday fun was provided for hundreds of children with the second year of a summer club at The Cotteridge Church. Four mornings of activities were organised in August for parents and children who needed support. Organiser Helen Gale explained there was breakfast, puzzles, crafts, a bouncy castle and finally lunch: "And we were able

to do it all for free," she said. Thanks to The Trussell Trust, the Methodist Circuit, The Cotteridge Church and some individual donations, we were able to feed and entertain 70 plus children each week. On one Wednesday, volunteers Shirley and Tina in the kitchens managed to feed 92 hungry adults and kids!"

Helen praised the team of helpers that made the club possible. One parent said: "The kids really looked forward to waking up and coming to the club. A massive thank you for everything!"

The BBC visited the foodbank and the club on two consecutive days for a news item for Midlands Today.

## QUALITY ASSURED

The Trussell Trust recently carried out its annual audit of every aspect of B30 Foodbank, and once again the operation passed with flying colours.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A new commission to assess levels of poverty in the UK has reached stark conclusions: 14.2 million people live in poverty and 4.5 million of those are children. Nearly half of the 14.2M live in a household with a disabled person. More than 10% of the population live in persistent poverty.

[New measure of UK poverty](#)

Meanwhile, the number of ultra rich people on the planet - with more than \$30M in assets - has increased by 12% to 255,810

[Ultra wealthy report](#)



**The Cotteridge Church, 24 Pershore Road South, Cotteridge, B30 3EU**

The foodbank is open 2.30pm – 4.30pm on Tuesdays & Fridays



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## REPORT: 226% RISE IN DEMAND

B30 Foodbank's annual report has revealed an increase of 226% in the number of people needing emergency food supplies in 2018, compared to when the foodbank opened in 2013.

Benefit changes and delays are still the main reasons people need help. Despite the myths that foodbanks are crammed with huge families, nearly half of all B30 Foodbank's clients are single. A quarter are single parents.

Ninety four percent of vouchers are given to people living in the four postcodes that surround the foodbank.

The full report is available here: [poverty... through the eyes of B30foodbank](#)

## BOXING CLEVER FOR HARVEST

Harvest time is an excellent opportunity to think of families who're in food poverty. Many schools and churches already send their collections to B30 Foodbank. But this year we're trying to make it easier than ever with a label that you can print out and stick on collection boxes. It can be downloaded from our website

[B30 Foodbank harvest box](#)



## AND MANY MORE WAYS TO HELP

Food stocks at the foodbank are at the lowest level for a long time, so we are extremely grateful for every donation, big or small. **A huge "thank you" to Sainsbury's customers in Kings Heath (727kg) and Longbridge (698kg) for their recent brilliant support.**

You can help too! Send an online shops to our warehouse between 1 & 3 pm on Tuesdays only.

At all other times we're still delighted to receive long-life food in the green wheelie bin at **The Cotteridge Church**, or you can fill up donation crates at local **Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank, The Coop, Asda**, and many more. [Where to donate](#)

